

**§ 32.50 How is this part written?**

(a) This part uses a “plain language” format to make it easier for the general public and business community to use. The section headings and text, often in the form of questions and answers, must be read together.

(b) Pronouns used within this part, such as “I” and “you,” change from subpart to subpart depending on the audience being addressed. The pronoun “we” always is the EPA.

(c) The “Covered Transactions” diagram in the appendix to this part shows the levels or “tiers” at which the EPA enforces an exclusion under this part.

**§ 32.75 Do terms in this part have special meanings?**

This part uses terms throughout the text that have special meaning. Those terms are defined in Subpart I of this part. For example, three important terms are—

(a) *Exclusion or excluded*, which refers only to discretionary actions taken by a suspending or debarring official under this part or the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4);

(b) *Disqualification or disqualified*, which refers to prohibitions under specific statutes, executive orders (other than Executive Order 12549 and Executive Order 12689), or other authorities. Disqualifications frequently are not subject to the discretion of an agency official, may have a different scope than exclusions, or have special conditions that apply to the disqualification; and

(c) *Ineligibility or ineligible*, which generally refers to a person who is either excluded or disqualified.

**Subpart A—General****§ 32.100 What does this part do?**

This part adopts a governmentwide system of debarment and suspension for EPA nonprocurement activities. It also provides for reciprocal exclusion of persons who have been excluded under the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and provides for the consolidated listing of all persons who are excluded, or disqualified by statute, executive

order, or other legal authority. This part satisfies the requirements in section 3 of Executive Order 12549, “Debarment and Suspension” (3 CFR 1986 Comp., p. 189), Executive Order 12689, “Debarment and Suspension” (3 CFR 1989 Comp., p. 235) and 31 U.S.C. 6101 note (Section 2455, Public Law 103–355, 108 Stat. 3327).

**§ 32.105 Does this part apply to me?**

Portions of this part (see table at § 32.25(b)) apply to you if you are a(n)—

(a) Person who has been, is, or may reasonably be expected to be, a participant or principal in a covered transaction;

(b) Respondent (a person against whom the EPA has initiated a debarment or suspension action);

(c) EPA debarring or suspending official; or

(d) EPA official who is authorized to enter into covered transactions with non-Federal parties.

**§ 32.110 What is the purpose of the nonprocurement debarment and suspension system?**

(a) To protect the public interest, the Federal Government ensures the integrity of Federal programs by conducting business only with responsible persons.

(b) A Federal agency uses the nonprocurement debarment and suspension system to exclude from Federal programs persons who are not presently responsible.

(c) An exclusion is a serious action that a Federal agency may take only to protect the public interest. A Federal agency may not exclude a person or commodity for the purposes of punishment.

**§ 32.115 How does an exclusion restrict a person’s involvement in covered transactions?**

With the exceptions stated in §§ 32.120, 32.315, and 32.420, a person who is excluded by the EPA or any other Federal agency may not:

(a) Be a participant in a(n) EPA transaction that is a covered transaction under subpart B of this part;

(b) Be a participant in a transaction of any other Federal agency that is a